HEADQUARTERS FOURTH CORPS AREA
Office of the Corps Area Educational Adviser CAEA-jnj
Civilian Conservation Corps

Oakland City Station,
January 25, 1935 Atlanta, Georgia.

TO: The Chairmen and Members of All State Coordinating Committees.

As I enter the second year of my service as Fourth Corps Area Educational Adviser, CCC, I want to express to all members of the State Coordinating Committee my deep appreciation of the splendid cooperation which you have given to the development of the educational program of the CCC. The forms of cooperation rendered have been many and varied, and have been most helpful.

Cooperation received has included:

1. Provision of office and other facilities for the State Educational Adviser.
2. Helpful advice to the State Educational Adviser and the Corps Area Educational Adviser.
3. Set up and conduct of State Training Conferences (one week each) for Camp Educational Advisers.
4. Provision of literature for distribution to the camps.
5. Provision of visual education facilities.
6. Provision of special lecturers and instructors for the camps, and for training conferences of various types.
7. Moral support of the program in many and diverse ways and channels.
8. Recommendation of men for appointment as Camp Educational Adviser.
9. Provision of F.E.R.A. teachers to assist in the work.
10. Making available the facilities of the several departments of the State Government and of the State University to enrich the program.
11. Making local educational facilities available to use of individual camps.
12. Camp visitation and report.

For all of these services, and others not enumerated, I am most deeply grateful. They have been of inestimable value in the development of this new and challenging folk school movement in the United States.

Starting a year ago, as an experiment, in regard to the soundness and practicability of which there was very widespread scepticism, and with extremely limited financial support, the educational program has in this short time won the general acclaim of educational circles, the active interest of the enrollees it was created to serve, and the confidence of the army personnel responsible for its administration. The cooperation you and the members of your committee have given has aided materially in attaining these results.

Today the educational program is universally recognized as one of the major aspects of the CCC program, and is one of the important factors in the wide approval being given to the CCC nationally. As a result, the educational program is now acknowledged as a permanent part of the CCC. And the indications are that the CCC may itself become a permanent part of our national economy. In other words, it now appears that we have in fact been laying the foundations of a great and permanent national educational system.

As yet we have only scratched the surface in the accomplishment of the possibilities of this program. But great value has already been had, and the lines for future development are becoming more clear. Constantly we are finding that the demand is for "more practical training" to fit the men for their future lives. More vocational training, more agricultural training, more work in the arts and crafts. And along with that goes the demand for more training in the art of living, a better understanding of the world we live in and their relationship to it, a moulding of human attitudes, as well as an increase in human understanding -- a training we call "citizenship."

Some of those appointed as Camp Educational Advisers have risen splendidly to the unique opportunities of the situation presented, and have displayed great initiative, ingenuity, resourcefulness and adaptability in meeting the conditions encountered, as well as showing that warmth and winsomeness of human personality which draws and holds the boys to them. Others, naturally, while they may have been excellent class room instructors, have not proved adapted to this informal type of adult education. There has, during the year, as a result, been a turn over of approximately 50% in our personnel. In nearly every case we have been able to replace our losses with much stronger men. As a result, our standards are constantly rising.

I am looking forward to the time when we will have developed definite professional standards for our work-when there may be a special four year college course in preparation for this new profession.

Meanwhile we have gotten to the point where we are not content to select from out of work applicants but are definitely looking for sources from which to secure properly qualified men. In this effort I would welcome your cooperation.

The holding of a college degree can be considered a prerequisite. In general, we find that we get our best results from men who are between 25 and 40 years of age, though there have been notable exceptions. Some teaching experience is an asset, but too long an experience in purely formal academic training has been found to be a serious liability. Good character is of course essential, and an active mind and initiative, adaptability, and tact are highly important. And an attractive personality is more important than merely technical training.

Given these basic qualifications, we have found that some training beyond merely academic experience is highly desirable. Specifically I desire to find men who have had training in at least one of the following:

(a). Vocational training.
(b). Vocational agriculture.
(c). Arts and crafts (industrial arts). Ability to give leadership in music, in athletics, or in recreation is also highly desirable.

The indications are that the educational program is to be greatly strengthened this next year, and that a Camp Educational Adviser will be provided for every company. Moreover, instead of the CCC being reduced to 100,000, as was contemplated a year ago, it now appears that it will be expanded to 700,000 probably as of April 1st. It appears, therefore, that there may be a large number of appointments to be made at that time. I desire therefore to be building up my files with applications from a very high grade of men who have the specific qualifications we desire. I would be very glad therefore to have you suggest to me the names of suitably qualified men, to have you put me in touch with sources for finding such men, or to have you suggest to any men whom you

believe to be qualified that they communicate with me.

The base salary remains at $1980.00 a year. The men are expected to live in camp, where lodging is furnished. They rate as officers, and mess with the officers, paying usually 50¢ a day for board, so they net approximately $1800.00 a year, above board and lodging.

Some modifications in our present set up may be made, following the determination of the basic plans for the CCC and for the educational program, but just what they will be cannot yet be told. However, we shall certainly hope to receive the continued cooperation of the State Coordinating Committees and of the members thereof; and immediately I would greatly appreciate your help in locating the strongest available material for appointment.

I would greatly appreciate your cooperation on one other matter. As noted in the circular letter to State and District Educational Advisers, I am planning to publish a Training Manual which I hope will be of great value in establishing a uniform high quality of work in the camps. I would be very grateful for any material which members of the State Coordinating Committees might send in that would help in the preparation of this manual. The outline enclosed is by no means complete or inclusive. Send anything that would help -- ideas, criticisms, articles, speeches (including any given at the state training conferences last year), bibliographies, or what have you. I should like to make this Training Manual as helpful as possible. May I have your assistance?

It may be of interest to you to know that during the year I succeeded in personally visiting each one of the 266 companies in the Corps Area. During the last four months alone I travelled 15,000 miles in this connection. It has been a most interesting and stimulating experience. I believe we are developing a most significant contribution to education, as well as rendering a very great service to the 80,000 young men who are in the CCC in this Corps Area, during the course of the year.

Sincerely,

C. A. Edson.

C. A. Edson,
Corps Area Educational Adviser.